



Caltrans Seeks to Increase Small Business and Disabled Veteran Business Participation

Caltrans Contract Analyst Betty Graham talks to small business owners at a Caltrans-sponsored workshop in February 2012 at the Rancho Cordova City Hall.

Caltrans is committed to increasing the economic opportunity and development of small business (SB) and disabled veteran business enterprise (DVBE) firms within California by setting goals of participation of these firms in our contracts.

State Small Business and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Participation

Caltrans has established an overall annual SB participation goal of 25 percent; Caltrans' overall annual DVBE participation goal is 5 percent, which exceeds the state-mandated requirement of 3 percent.

In fiscal year 2012–13, Caltrans fell short of achieving its overall annual SB and DVBE participation goals. SB participation was \$500 million, or 21.62 percent, and DVBE participation in Caltrans projects was \$45 million, or 1.96 percent. This is due, in part, to the availability of certified SB and DVBE firms qualified to work on Caltrans projects, and passage of the 2006 transportation bond, Proposition 1B, which has affected the scope and dollar value of state-funded projects. Caltrans has taken steps to increase participation by sponsoring educational opportunities for SB and DVBE, reevaluating goal-setting methods, and strengthening the process of collecting and reporting SB and DVBE data.

Caltrans [reports annually](#) to the Department of General Services its levels of SB and DVBE participation, broken down by category of expense: information technology goods and services, noninformation technology goods and services,

Small Business and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Participation in Caltrans Contracts FY 2012–13

Participation	Contracts awarded	Participation	Goal
Small business	\$500 million	21.62%	25%
Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise	\$45 million	1.96%	5%

and construction services. Caltrans compares SB and DVBE participation to the total annual state expenditures, in the categories mentioned, in a given fiscal year.

Federal Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Participation

In addition, Caltrans has established an overall annual disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) goal of 12.5 percent for federal-aid projects. A DBE is a for-profit small business that is at least 51 percent owned by one or more individuals who are both socially and economically disadvantaged. In the case of a corporation, 51 percent of the stock is owned by one or more such individuals, and whose management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more of the socially and economically disadvantaged individuals who own it. The DBE program benefits small businesses that qualify for DBE certification. For more information about Caltrans' DBE program, please review Caltrans' [DBE Annual Element Report](#) for federal fiscal year 2013.



In an effort to be more energy efficient, Caltrans uses a photo-voltaic system to produce solar power for its Stockton offices.

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for solar projects on 70 Caltrans structures, including maintenance facilities and equipment shops, safety rest areas, office buildings, laboratories, and toll/management facilities.

These projects generate 2.4 megawatts of electricity, enough to power approximately 500 homes per year. It is anticipated that these projects will ultimately generate approximately 3.6 million kilowatt hours annually, keeping more than 1,000 tons of GHG emissions out of the atmosphere each year.

Because the solar projects began generating electricity one year after bond sales, it is estimated that the bond debt will be fully paid through the annual energy savings. After accounting for the cost of paying off bond debt and maintaining the facilities, this translates into millions of dollars in savings over the anticipated 25-year life of the solar panels.

Other steps Caltrans is taking to adapt to climate change include using native plants, mulch, and hardscape, which uses elements such as sidewalks and retaining walls, in lieu of traditional landscaping plants to reduce the need for irrigation, and developing a standard for cool pavements that reduce urban heat in the face of global warming.

Caltrans is also installing 33 electrical vehicle charging stations statewide, to accommodate the

plug-in electric vehicles that will be purchased for the Caltrans fleet, to further reduce greenhouse gases.

Additional efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions include continually working with our partners to reduce traffic congestion, expanding active transportation such as walking and biking, and embracing new technology in construction materials, alternative fuels, efficient lighting and renewable energy.



Caltrans has installed electric vehicle charging stations like this statewide.

For more information on Caltrans data please see the following links:

[*QuickMap*](#)

[*Program Review*](#)

[*Caltrans Performance Measures Quarterly Report*](#)

[*Structures Maintenance & Investigations*](#)

[*Annual Report*](#)

[*State of the Pavement*](#)

[*Strategic Highway Safety Plan*](#)

[*California State Rail Plan*](#)

[*Division of Maintenance*](#)

[*Map21 - 2012 Congressional Reauthorization
of the Federal Transportation Program*](#)

[*Caltrans Five-Year Maintenance Plan*](#)

[*Caltrans Earth*](#)

[*Executive Fact Book*](#)

[*Other Transportation Reports*](#)